(c) what is the total demand of gas in the northern region and whether the same would be met satisfactorily; and

(d) if so, by when and what will be the total cost of this whole project during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The current carrying capacity of the pipeline is 18.2 MMSCMD. The capacity of the pipeline is to be increased to 33.4 MMSCMD whereafter gas is proposed to be supplied to units located in Gadepan, Babrala, Shahjahanpur, Bawana, Faridabad, etc.

(c) and (d) Allocations, or assessment of requirement, are not made on a regional basis. With the upgradation of the HBJ pipeline, the allocations made in the region are likely to be satisfactorily met. Expenditure on the upgradation project during the current financial year is estimated to be approximately Rs. 370 crores, including a foreign exchange expenditure of Rs. 210 crores approximately.

Proposal to pump out the additional crude oil

346. SHRI BHADRESHWAR GOHAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to pump out the additional crude oil from Assam through a loop line; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for proposing to pump out the crude oil in spite of strong protest by the people of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders in Bombay

347. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO :

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that LPG dealers of Bombay City due to riots situations are creating artificial shortage to charge more from the customers; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There was some interruption in the supply of LPG during the period of disturbances/curfew in Bombay. Despatches were made even on Sundays and holidays to ease the situation.

Mass Exodus of the top Level Executives

348. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been a mass exodus of the top level executives from ONGC as reported in the Economic Times dated 6-4-93;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that most of them have joined Multinational companies engaged in oil exploration; and

(c) whether Government would consider imposing a ban on top level ONGC executives, taking up private employment particularly in the oil exploration sector as this would give the MNCs undue leverage in negotiations for contracts and assignments?